

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Related Applications

This application claims priority to U.S. Patent App. No. 60/163,115, entitled *Portal Configuration in Wireless Medium*, to Moeller et al., filed November 2, 1999; to U.S. Patent App. No. 09/513,554, entitled *System and Automatic Data Retrieval on an Internet Protocol Network*, to Ndili et al., filed on February 25, 2000; and to U.S. Patent App. No. 60/204,502, entitled *System for Providing Network Content to Wireless Devices*, to Ndelie et al., filed May 16, 2000; all of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the field of wireless communications. In particular, the invention relates to wireless communications exchanged between a mobile device and a network site using a language conversion engine.

Description of the Related Art

Wireless technology now enables mobile devices to wirelessly couple to networks such as the Internet. The mobile devices can couple to the networks to receive information and content.

Typically, mobile devices are programmed to use a single language. The language use by the mobile device determines which network sites can be accessed. In some countries and geographic regions, mobile devices favor one type of language. Information providers typically structure network sites to provide content to the mobile devices using the language that is more prevalent in that geographic region. This makes it difficult for devices using other languages to have the same breadth of network access.

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A system is provided for exchanging communications between a mobile device and a network site. The system includes a the conversion engine that coupled to network site in response to a request signaled from the mobile device. The mobile device signals the request using a first language. The network site processes the request in a second language. The conversion engine converts communications from the first language to the second language to enable communications between the network site and the mobile device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a system for exchanging communications between a mobile device and a network site, each of which communicate using different languages, under an embodiment of the invention.

5 FIG. 2 is a flow process for coupling the mobile device to a conversion engine, under an such as described with FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a system for coupling a mobile device to a network site having one or more internal links, where the mobile device and network site communicate using different languages, under an
10 embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 is a flow process for coupling the mobile device to the conversion engine to enable the mobile device to retrieve content from a network site programmed in a different language, where the network site includes internal links that are to be provided to the mobile device, under an embodiment such as
15 described with FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating a system for exchanging communications between the mobile device and the network site, each of which communicate using different languages, where the network site includes multiple input features for each page, under an embodiment of the invention.

20 FIG. 6 is a flow process for coupling the mobile device to the conversion engine to enable the mobile device to retrieve content from a network site programmed in a different language, where the network site provides multiple input features for each page, under an embodiment such as described with FIG.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A. System Overview

Embodiments of the invention provide a conversion engine to enable mobile devices to retrieve content from network sites, where the mobile device
5 and the network site use different languages. In one application, a conversion engine is used to couple mobile devices using a first language to a network site using a second language. This allows for a device that is operable using a first language to be coupleable to network sites that use either the first language or a second language.

10 In one embodiment, a mobile device is operable in a first wireless language. The mobile device is coupleable to the conversion engine to access network sites that would otherwise require the mobile devices to be operable in a second language.

Mobile devices include devices that are capable of wireless
15 communications. Preferably, the mobile device is configured to communicate using wireless access protocol (WAP). The language used by the mobile device may be anyone of the languages mentioned in this application. Examples of mobile devices include wireless devices such as cell phones, smart phones, handheld computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) that use wireless
20 communications. Specific examples include Sprint PCS phones, Palm VII, and other PDAs that use wireless modems.

In one specific implementation, the mobile device is WAP enabled and programmed in a Handheld Device Markup Language (HDML). The WAP

device is coupleable to the conversion engine to retrieve information from network sites that are otherwise programmed to communicate with mobile devices using Compact Hypertext Markup Language (CHTML).

An advantage provided by an embodiment of the invention is that
5 mobile devices are enabled to communicate with different types of network sites, including network sites using languages other than those of the mobile devices. Thus, mobile devices have access to a greater number of network sites.

Another advantage is that mobile devices using a first language can be made to access network sites suited for mobile devices that are programmed to
10 communicate in a second language. Some countries in particular favor one wireless language for WAP devices over other wireless languages. For example, in Japan, most WAP devices use CHTML to communicate to network sites, while in other countries, most WAP devices use HDML. For example, currently in some countries such as Japan, HDML devices are precluded from
15 communicating with the majority of available network sites which use CHTML.

An advantage of the invention is that WAP devices using one type of wireless language (i.e. HDML) can couple to network sites which can only communicate in another wireless language (i.e. CHTML).

Another advantage provided by an embodiment of the invention is that
20 mobile device can retrieve content and information from network sites programmed with different languages. The mobile device may retrieve content from network sites programmed in different languages. The content may be retrieved on-the-fly, so that information from the different network sites is made

may be in the form of hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof.

One or more modules and other parts of the conversion engine may be distributed between different computers.

Content refers to information that can be rendered when communication with the network site is established. Examples of content include pages rendered from network sites, text messages, links to other network sites, and logos. Another example of content includes media, such as provided by streaming media, including video and/or audio.

Another embodiment of the invention includes method for exchanging communications between a mobile device and a network site. A request to access a network site from a mobile device is received. The request is structured in a first language. A content from the network site is retrieved in the second language. The content is signaled to the mobile device in the first language. In an embodiment, the first language allows for a single input entry per page rendered from the network site, and the second language allows for multiple input entries per page rendered from the network site.

For reference, CHTML is a W3 Consortium defined protocol for mobile devices. One notable characteristic of CHTML is that multiple input and entry fields can be provided on mobile devices that use this protocol. Another notable characteristic of CHTML is that it allows for diverse user interaction using select and limited input mechanisms, typically one or more buttons on the mobile device.

CHTML was adopted as a well-defined subset of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), but scaled to better accommodate small information

page. Once initiated, request 1 is sent to conversion engine 50 via a wireless network.

Communications between the mobile device 60 and conversion engine 50 may be made via a wireless network 38. The request 1 may be transmitted to an uplink server (not shown) before being forwarded to a server where the conversion engine resides. The connection between the uplink server and the server hosting the conversion engine may be through a land based communication line. The conversion engine 50 may be located on one or more servers or computer systems coupled to the uplink server. The uplink server may be selected for communication with mobile device 60 based on the geographical location of mobile device 60.

In an embodiment, mobile device 60 is configured to communicate with a network using a first language. Therefore, request 1 is a communication transmitted using the first language. The network site 30 is configured to communicate with a mobile device (or other terminal or device) using a second language, where the second language is different than the first language. For example, the first language may be HDML, and the second language may be a version of HTML, and preferably CHTML.

The conversion engine converts request 1 from the first language into the second language. The conversion engine 50 forwards request 2 to the network site 30. The request 2 is used to access information and content from network site 30. In response to signaling request 2, conversion engine 50 is able to retrieve content 3 from network site 30. The content 3 is converted by

conversion engine 50 into a newly formatted content 4. The newly formatted content 4 is signaled to mobile device 60.

FIG. 2 is a flow process illustrating communications exchanged between mobile device 60 and network site 30, under an embodiment of the invention.

5 Reference to elements of FIG. 1 with description of this flow process is intended only to illustrate an exemplary configuration for the embodiment.

In step 80, conversion engine 50 receives a request from mobile device 60. The request is formatted in a first language used by the mobile device 60 for communications. For example, mobile devices 60 is assumed to use HDML to
10 communicate with network sites on the Internet. Without use of conversion engine 50, mobile device 60 would only be able to access network sites containing files programmed in an HDML format. The conversion engine 50 may include a network interface (not shown) to receive the communications from the mobile device.

15 In step 82, the request from mobile device 60 is converted to the second language. The request may be converted by a conversion component (such as a module or program) of the conversion engine 50. The request is converted to the language used by network site 30. In an embodiment, the language of the network site 30 is CHTML.

20 In step 84, the converted request is signaled to network site 130. Then in step 86, a response to the request is retrieved (or fetched) by the conversion engine 50. In step 88, the conversion component of the conversion engine 50 converts the content retrieved from the network site into an HDML format. In

step 90, the content received as a response from network site 30 is signaled to mobile device 60.

B. Converting Internal Links Between Wireless Languages

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a system 200, under another
5 embodiment of the invention. The system 200 includes a conversion engine
150 that is coupleable to mobile device 160 via a wireless network 138. The
conversion engine 150 is also coupleable to network sites 130 via a network
135.

The system 200 illustrates an embodiment where internal links on the
10 network site 130 are identified, then structured for mobile device 160. When
structured, the internal links are renderable on the display of the mobile device
in HDML. Further, the structured internal links are associated with an address
that can be signaled to conversion engine 150 when the user of the mobile
device 160 selects the internal link. The mobile device 160 is assumed to
15 communicate using HDML, while network site 130 is assumed to communicate
in CHTML.

In an embodiment, mobile device 160 signals request 11 to conversion
engine 150 to retrieve content from network site 130. Request 11 is coded in
HDML. The conversion engine 150 restructures the request from mobile device
20 160 and signals request 12 to network site 130 using CHTML. The conversion
engine 150 receives content 13 from network site 130 that is coded in CHTML.
The conversion engine 150 formats the content from the network site into
HDML. The content is then transmitted with signal 14 to mobile device 160.

The network site 130 may include a plurality of internal links. As used herein, internal links of any network site are selectable representations of network addresses provided on that network site. For example, a page rendered from a network site may include links to other web sites.

5 FIG. 3 illustrates network site 130 to include internal links to network sites 132, 133 and 134,. The internal links are selectable when content from network site 130 is rendered. As such, network sites 132, 133, 134 are internal links for network site 130. In FIG. 3, network sites 136, 137, and 138 represent internal links to network site 133. Thus, network sites 133 are internal links to
10 network site 130. It is possible for a network site to have its own link as an internal link.

 The content 13 would be renderable on a CHTML type device to provide content and information from network site 130. The content 13 would include selectable internal links to enable the CHTML type device to couple to
15 other network sites. For an embodiment such as described with FIG. 3, conversion engine 150 identifies internal links from content 13. When converting content 13, conversion engine 150 restructures the internal links into HDML so as to be selectable on mobile device 160. Moreover, the internal links are structured so as to be selectable to signal in HDML the address of the
20 corresponding network address 132, 133, 134 to conversion engine 150. The conversion engine 150 restructures the internal links to appear on the mobile device 160 as selectable user-interactive features. When a user-interactive feature is selected, the internal links signal conversion engine 150 to access the selected internal network sites 132, 133, 134 of network site 130.

One advantage of the invention is that mobile device 160 is provided internal links for each rendered network page. The internal links provided are selectable to locate a corresponding network page without having to access the previous network site that provided the page being rendered on the mobile
5 device 160.

C. Converting Input Between Wireless Languages

FIG. 5 illustrates another embodiment of the invention in which input features included in the network page that is retrieved from a network site are formatted with other content and rendered on mobile device 160. The system
10 500 includes conversion engine, mobile device 460, and a plurality of network site 432. The conversion engine 450 is coupleable to the mobile device 460 and to the plurality of network sites 432. A wireless network 408 used to couple the mobile device 460 to the conversion engine 450. The wireless network may include an uplink server and a land communication system. A network 405 may
15 be used to couple conversion engine 450 to network sites 430. An example of network 405 is the Internet.

The system 500 illustrates an implementation for converting input features from one language to another language. Specifically, wireless device 460 is assumed to communicate with network sites and other devices using a
20 language that is limited in the number of input features that can be displayed. In one embodiment, wireless device 460 communicates in HDML, while network site 432 is assumed to use CHTML. Current versions of HDML are limited to displaying a single input feature per rendered network page. That is, when the

display or otherwise render only one input feature from each network page retrieved from network site 430.

In an embodiment such as shown by FIG. 5, the conversion engine 450 identifies the input features from the network page 113. The input features are reformatted into HDML type links. A function is associated with selection of the link. Therefore, each input feature provided on network site 430 is provided an HDML type link that is included in content 114. The HDML link is also provided with coding to instruct conversion engine 450 when the corresponding is selected. The functionality of the coding is described below.

Once network page 113 is rendered on mobile device 460, the user can make a subsequent request 115 by selecting one of the HDML links that correspond to input features provided on network site 430. The user makes request 115 to signal a wish to make a specific input entry. Preferably, each HDML link is displayed with features such as wording or graphics so as to clearly indicate a wish by the user to make an entry for the input feature associated with that HDML link.

The request 115 is signaled to conversion engine 450 in HDML. The HDML link on which request 115 was generated includes code to enable conversion engine 450 to recognize the link as corresponding to a particular input entry on network site 430. In an embodiment, the code provided with the HDML link instructs conversion engine 450 to open and access a new network site 455. The new network site is preferably virtual, so that it exists only for the purpose of providing a platform for the user to signal input entries. \

Signal 116 opens virtual site 455 according to code provided with the link from mobile device 460. Alternatively, code may be provided by conversion engine 450 to open virtual site 455. Once opened, a page 117 is retrieved from virtual site 455. The page is transmitted to mobile device 460 via
5 signal 118, where the page for the virtual site 455 is rendered in HDML.

The user of mobile device 460 may enter input for virtual site 455. The input corresponds to what the user would enter in the corresponding input feature of network site 430, had the user been using a CHTML device. The mobile device signals input 119 to conversion engine 450. The conversion
10 engine 450 converts input 119 into CHTML. The input 560 is signaled to network site 430 in CHTML, where it is entered.

Alternatively, the input 560 may be signaled to an internal network site 432, corresponding to where entry into input feature on the network page would be entered on network site 430. In some applications, entry into input features
15 of network site 430 are equivalent to selecting internal links for other network sites. Thus, entry into virtual site 455 may subsequently be treated as selection of an internal link on network site 430.

The response 121 to entering the input entry for network site 430 is retrieved in CHTML. The response 122 is then signaled to mobile device 460.

20 An advantage provided by an embodiment of the invention is that HDML type mobile devices are provided the ability to perform tasks and functions that were not previously available. In particular, HDML type mobile devices 160 may be used with network sites that allow for multiple input features and entries. For example, with an embodiment of this invention,

The signal **211** is a request from mobile device 560 to retrieve a page from a network site. The request is in the form of a card that provides the address of the network site being requested. The request **211** may also identify mobile device 560, including its language type.

5 In this illustration, mobile device 560 is assumed to be an HDML type device. The conversion engine transmits a request **212** to database 545. The request **212** provides DMS 548 with the selected network site and the type of mobile device 560 being used. A look-up table may be used, for example, to correlate the identification of mobile device 560 with a language. The DMS 548
10 selects instructions for converting the network page for the requested site to the language of the identified mobile device. The instructions **213** are signaled to conversion engine 550. Using the instructions, conversion engine 550 signals a request **214** to retrieve content from the network site selected on mobile device 560. A corresponding network page **215** is retrieved. The network page is
15 converted by conversion engine 550 using the instructions from database 545. The converted network page **216** is signaled to mobile device 560.

 It will be appreciated that in this system, mobile device 560 may use HDML, WML, CHTML, or other programming to communicate with network sites. The conversion engine is able to identify the type of device, as well as the
20 selected destination of the user on an associated network. One function that can be performed by conversion engine 550 is to convert communications to and from mobile device 560 and network site between HTML or CHTML to HDML.

560 may signal input using the created network page. The input is then forwarded to network sites located by the input features. This feature of the invention is particularly useful when the mobile device operates in HDML, and the network site is coded in HTML or CHTML.

5 E. Converting Between Languages For The Mobile Device

FIG. 8 illustrates a method performed by content engine 550 in paginating the network event into the wireless format. A process such as described with FIG. 8 enables events to be retrieved from IP sites and then converted for mobile devices 560. The content appearing on mobile device 550
10 is properly paginated for the screen of the mobile device 560, with no modification at the network site or mobile device 560. The process described with FIG. 8 assumes that content engine 550 has retrieved the network content from the network 135.

In step 590, a memory allotment is specified for mobile device 560. The
15 memory allotment depends on the wireless protocol in use, and the desired page size which can be a function of the screen size of target mobile device 560. The memory allotment may be designated as, for example, 1k, representing the average screen sizes WAP pages for mobile phones. Alternatively, a user of mobile device 560 may configure the memory allotment depending on the
20 specific type and model of mobile device 560 being used. In an embodiment, the memory allotment is specified through user database 125.

In step 492, the content retrieved from the IP site is segmented according to the memory allotment. Each segment is portioned to correspond

words and code segments, and is coded from HTTP to WML or HDML appropriately.

To ensure the free unattached space is between an open or closed bracket, the content engine 550 may include coding that measures on the page break line the distance between the first located space and an open tag “<”. The coding then measures the space between the located space and the closed tag “>”. If the distance between the located space and the open tag is less than the distance between the located space and the open tag, then the located space is considered free and unattached. The located space is then made the location of a page break.

If the distance between the located space and the open tag is greater than the distance between the located space the close tag, then the located space is considered attached. A next space is then located on the break line. The next space may correspond to the space appearing to the right of the close tag. The spaces appearing on the page break line are checked in this manner until a free unattached space is located. Once the free unattached space is located, the segment is paginated.

In step 496, the segment is signaled to mobile device 560. The segment may be signaled with a user-interactive feature (icon) to signal a request for a next segment. In step 498, a determination is made as to whether a next segment is the last segment for the network content. If in step 498, a next segment is a last segment, then the last segment is signaled to mobile device 550 in step 499 as the last segment. If there is another segment, then steps 496-499 are repeated.

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